TO THE

HONOURABLE

The COMMONS Of

ENGLAND,

ASSEMBLED in

PARLIAMENT.

The humble Petition of Benjamin Harris, ***Citizen and Stationer of*** London, ***and now a Priſoner in the*** Kings-Bench.

Moſt Humbly ſheweth,

THat your poor and diſtreſſed Petitioner, did in the way of his Trade, and for the ſupply of his poor Wife and Children, Re-print a ſmall Paper of two ſheets, Called, *An Appeal from the Country to the City*; which Papers had been Printed by another in Four ſheets, and Publickly Sold by moſt Bookſellers in *London* for ſome time before; And your poor Petitioner, not apprehending any Dangerous Matter to be in the ſaid Paper, did adventure to Re-print it, as aforeſaid, in Two ſheets, not thinking it would have given ſuch Offence, as your poor Petitioner has ſince to his great Sorrow found, to the utter Ruin of Himſelf and poor Family; having been Sentenced to ſtand in the Pillory for the ſame: Which Ignominious Punishment your poor Petitioner has ſince patiently Suffered; being alſo Fined Five Hundred pounds to the King, and to lie in Priſon till the ſame be paid; which ſaid Fine your Petitioner is in no wiſe able to pay, and your Petitioner hath lain Nine Months in Priſon, and is like to *Lye there as long as he lives, unleſs ſome Mercy be ſhewn to him.*

Your Petitioner therefore humbly lays his ſad and deplorable Caſe before your Honours, hoping that the Wiſdom of this Honourable Houſe, will find out ſome Expedient to ſhew Compaſſion to a poor and undone Perſon, whereby the Ruine of himſelf and his poor Family may be prevented.

And your Petitioner (as in Duty bound) ſhall ever Pray.

F 1679